

1908, the Mississippi Association of History Teachers as an auxiliary and is printing the papers of the latter for distribution.

The Nebraska State Historical Society has obtained an appropriation from the State for a building which is to be devoted to its use.

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### REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

#### INDIANA BAPTIST HISTORY.

In "Indiana Baptist History, 1798-1908," Professor William T. Stott offers a desirable contribution to a field wherein we have little and need more. A book or two on Presbyterianism, two or three touching Methodism, a brochure on Congregationalism and this work on the Baptist church virtually comprise what we have; and yet the religious movements within a commonwealth are an integral and very important part of its history, representing, as they do, beliefs that operate through every stratum of society, and which are no small factor in determining the character of the people. Whatever one may think of the merits or absurdities of the diverse dogmas held by the several sects, it is a matter of deep sociologic interest that the church organizations and the conflicts whereby they are strengthened, present in their histories the sterling virtues of righteous ideals, zeal, self-sacrifice and sturdiness to a degree hardly paralleled in any other human activity. An institution that fosters these things surely bears an all-important part in the development of a community, and so, be it repeated, records in this field afford desirable data.

Professor Stott, for thirty-three years president of Franklin College, the leading Baptist school of the State, was pre-eminently the man to have written this book. No one, perhaps, could have had access to more material, though, unfortunately, the records of many of the earlier churches are lost beyond all finding. More first-hand information might have been desired, but nevertheless Mr. Stott has brought within his 374 pages much that will be new to the reader.

The establishment of the Baptist church in Indiana antedates all others, except the Catholic. The first organization dates

back to 1798, when four persons, John and Sophia Fisher and John and Cattern Pettet, formed themselves into a church, meeting on Owen's creek and Silver creek, in what is now Clark county. The Baptist churches early attained to an important place, and in many localities they were on the ground and flourishing when the Presbyterian and Methodist denominations made their appearance. In some places, however, these rural Baptist churches were supplanted by other denominations, and the causes of this decadence are attributed by some to the refusal of such churches to "grow" with the general progress of opinion.

By 1809 two district associations were organized; by 1825 these had grown to eleven, with more than seventy-five churches, estimating those included at dates of organizations. A list of the preachers and laymen who were prominent in these early churches includes many men of force and ability who played their part in the making of the State—the Holmans, Jesse L. and William H., Milton Stapp, the Stotts, the Vawters, Isaac McCoy, and others; and the numerous biographical sketches which form a conspicuous part of Mr. Stott's book are, in many instances, not only interesting studies in character, but also throw light upon the times. They reveal various virtues and shortcomings of those days—sturdiness, zeal and heroism on the one hand, and on the other a narrowness and intolerance of opinion that seems insufferable at the present day. Judged charitably, these opinions, of course, then had all the sanctity of high truth, and the unyielding tenacity with which they were held was one evidence of the virtues.

"Indiana Baptist History" is published by the author, 1908, and copies may be had by addressing William T. Stott, superintendent Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home, Knightstown, Ind.

GEORGE S. COTTMAN.

#### HISTORY OF MICHIGAN CITY.

[By Rollo B. Oglesbee and Albert Hale. Illustrated by Albert J. Widdell. 1908.]

The preservation of local history is finding some advocates in different parts of the State. This work and the following